

Message Text

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ACTION SWF-11

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-11

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INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

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FOR ROME FODAG

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EAGR, EORG, FAO

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE - FIRST PREPCOM

1. ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

PRECOM ELECTED SWEDISH U.N. AMBASSADOR RYDBECK AS CHAIRMAN FIRST MEETING. AMB. MARTIN URGED RYDBECK BE NAMED CHAIRMAN FOR ALL THREE PRECOMS TO ASSURE CONTINUITY PREPARATORY WORK. AFTER FURTHER INTERVENTION SEVERAL LDC'S ISSUE OF IDENTITY CHAIRMAN FOR FUTURE PRECOMS POSTPONED. THREE VICE CHAIRMEN ELECTED FROM POLAND, COLOMBIA AND INDIA. RAPPORTEUR ELECTED FROM NIGERIA.

2. PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR PRECOM.

AGENDA APPROVED WITH INCLUSION AUSTRALIAN AMENDMENT THAT FIRST PREPCOM FIX DATES SECOND AND THIRD PREPCOMS AND ARRANGE FOR ADEQUATE DOCUMENTATION TO BE PREPARED FOR WFC.

3. SECRETARY GENERAL'S SPEECH.

MARIE OPENED BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS IN FOOD FIELD INCLUDING FAO AND WFP ACTIVITY, THEN PROCEEDED

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TO GIVE BBIEF OUTLINE WFC OBJECTIVES IN TERMS OF FAO PROPOSED AGENDA,

HITTING POINTS INCLUDED IN AGENDA ANNOTATIONS SUCH AS LONG-TERM GOALS FOR GOOD PRODUCTION, CONCRETE SCHEMES FOR DEVELOPMENT WATER RESOURCES, FERTILIZER AND AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY AND ACHIEVEMENT STABILIZED WORLD FOOD PRICES. MARIE STRESSED NEED FOR HARD AND INTENSIVE PREPARATORY WORK PARTICULARLY ON PART OF INTERESTED U. N. ORGANIZATIONS.

4. OBSERVERS

PRECOM APPROVED ROK, SWITZERLAND AND BANGLADESH AS OBSERVERS.

5. GENERAL COMMENTS ON PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR WFC

AS FIRST SPEAKER OF AFTERNOON SESSION, AMBASSADOR MARTIN REITERATED U.S. CONCERN OVER WORLDFOOD PROBLEM AND RECALLED U.S. INITIATIVE IN CONVENING WFC. AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS GENERAL IN SCOPE, NOTING ONLY TWO WEEKS AVAILABLE FOR CONFERENCE AND SUBSEQUENT URGENT NEED TO MAKE PRECOMS AS SUBSTANTIVE AS POSSIBLE. AMBASSADOR ALSO EMPHASIZED (1) U.S. CONCERN FOR INCREASED PRODUCTION AND NEED TO ENABLE FOOD-DEFICIT PEOPLES TO EAT BETTER,(2) NEED FOR MECHANISMS TO HELP PREVENT FOOD SHORTAGES AND (3) NEED TO ASSURE ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF FOOD AT REASONABLE PRICES TO WORLD'S CONSUMERS. AMBASSADOR ALSO STRESSED NECESSITY TO INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION AT LEVE) HIGHER THAN POPULATION GROWTH AND THAT EFFICIENCY OF FOOD PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION MUST BE IMPROVED. MARTIN ENDED U.S. STATEMENT WITH SECOND PLEA THAT PRECOMS MAKE BEST USE OF TIME AVAILABLE.

U.S. STATEMENT FOLLOWED BY GENERAL COMMENTS BY NORWAY, AUSTRALIA, MEXICO, BRAZIL, FRANCE AND EC OBSERVERS. MEXICAN REP IN OBLIQUE FASHION URGED BROADER FRAMEWORK FOR CONFERENCE SAYING FOOD PROBLEM MUST BE ANALYZED IN CONTEXT OF DEVELOPMENT IN GENERAL AND THAT COMMERCIAL ASPECTS MUST BE CONSIDERED IN STUDYING IMPROVED PRODUCTION

HE SUGGESTED AGENDA BE REORGANIZED TO REFLECT ACTION PRIORITIES, DEALING FIRST WITH URGENT NEEDS AND LATER WITH LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES. BRAZILIA, SAID HE SHARED PREOCCUPATION WITH POSSIBLY OVER-AMBITIOUS EFFORT IN ASSESSMENT LONG-TERM FOOD PROSPECTS. HE ADDED BRAZIL PREPARED TO CONTRIBUTE LAND AND LABOR RESOURCES TO SOLUTION PROBLEM, BUT NEEDED CAPITAL AND TECHNOLOGY FROM DC'S. AUSTRALIAN DELEGATE STRESSED LIMITATIONS OF WHAT WFC COULD EXPECT TO ACCOMPLISH IN TWO-WEEK PERIOD AND SUGGESTED CONFERENCE SHOULD TRY TO REACH SOME GENERAL CONCLUSIONS WHICH MIGHT STIMULATE WORK OF OTHER UN BODIES. HE SUGGESTED THAT ASSESSMENT CALLED FOR IN ANNOTATIONS TO PROVISIONAL AGENDA ASSUMED GREATER CAPACITY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO MAKE PREDICTIONS THAN WE ACTUALLY HAVE. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT WFC MIGHT NARROW DOWN FIELDS WHERE EFFECTIVE ACTION MIGHT BE TAKEN, SUCH AS INPUTS FOR PRODUCTION, PARTICULARLY FERTILIZER, AND RESEARCH.

EC OBSERVER, SPEAKING FOR ALL EC COUNTRIES, EMPHASIZED NEED FOR WFC TO FOCUS ON PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION IN LDC'S AND ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY (AGENDA ITEMS 3 AND 4). HE RECALLED FAO CONFERENCE CONCLUSION THAT INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND FOOD BALANCE

QUESTIONS HIGHLY INTER-LINKED AND SUGGESTED THAT, INSTEAD OF CONSIDERING INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ISOLATION AS SEPARATE AGENDA ITEM, IT WOULD BE BETTER TO CONSIDER TRADE IN CONNECTION WITH OTHER AGENDA ITEMS. (FRG DELEGATE INFORMED US THAT EC STATEMENT MAINLY WORK OF FRENCHDELEGATION.)

IN SEPARATE STATEMENT FRENCH DEL COMMENTED THAT ATTEMPT TO HAVE PREPCOM AGREE ON PRECISE AGENDA WOULD PREJUDGE SITUATION AND DEAL WITH POLICY QUESTIONS ABOUT WHICH ALL COUNTRIES DO NOT AGREE. HE SUGGESTED THAT PREPCOM SHOULD BE MAINLY CONCERNED WITH ASSESSMENT ITSELF.

IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION USSR DELEGATE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT IT WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY TO FINALIZE WFC AGENDA AT THIS SESSION. WHILE USSR DOES NOT OBJECT TO SECRETARIAT'S EFFORTS TO DATE AND IS PREPARED TO SEE STUDIES CONTINUED , IT HOPES TO SEE FORMAL RATIFICATION DELAYED UNTIL SECOND OR THIRD PRECOM.

AT CLOSE OF MEETING, PRECOM CHAIRMAN PROPOSED THAT FEBRUARY 12 SESSION CONTINUE WITH GENERAL COMMENTS, TO BE FOLLOWED BY DECISION ON WHETHER TO MOVE ON TO SPECIFIC COMMENTS OF WFC AGENDA.

END
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